

Marines TIP OF THE SPEAR



▼ **Maj. Gen. James N. Mattis**, commanding general of 1st Marine Division, sent this message to the Marines of his command in preparation for the onset of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

◀ **CAMP RIPPER, Kuwait** – Sgt. Harold Crawley Jr., from Las Vegas, locks the bolt to his MK-19 grenade launcher as Cpl. Kevin Cooksey, from Schreveport, La., points out the lateral firing limits under the protection of Lance Cpl. Shawn Williams from Sherman, Texas, while in a defensive position with the 7th Marine Regiment.

Photo by Gunnery Sgt. Erik S. Hansen



1st Marine Division (REIN) Commanding General's Message to All Hands



For decades, Saddam Hussein has tortured, imprisoned, raped and murdered the Iraqi people; invaded neighboring countries without provocation; and threatened the world with weapons of mass destruction. The time has come to end his reign of terror. On your young shoulders rest the hopes of mankind.

When I give the word, together we will cross the Lone of Departure, close with those forces that choose to fight, and destroy them. Our fight is not with the Iraqi people, nor is it with members of the Iraqi army who choose to surrender. While we will move swiftly and aggressively against those who resist, we will treat all others with decency, demonstrating chivalry and soldierly compassion for people who have endured a lifetime under Saddam's oppression.

Chemical attack, treachery, and use of the innocent as human shields can be expected, as can other unethical tactics. Take it all in stride. Be the hunter, not the hunted: never allow your unit to be caught with its guard down. Use good judgment and act in the best interests of our Nation.

You are part of the world's most feared and trusted force. Engage your brain before you engage your weapon. Share your courage with each other as we enter the uncertain terrain north of the Line of Departure. Keep faith in your comrades on your left and right and Marine Air overhead. Fight with happy heart and strong spirit.

For the mission's sake, our country's sake, and the sake of the men who carried the Division's colors in past battles—who fought for life and never lost their nerve—carry out your mission and keep your honor clean. Demonstrate to the world there is "No Better Friend, No Worse Enemy" than a U.S. Marine.

J.N. Mattis
Major General, U.S. Marines
Commanding

▼ Jan. 1, 2002

According to a Central Command release, the number of detainees in U.S. control continues to grow. The eight detainees aboard the USS Pelellu are now on the USS Bataan. The Kandahar facility now holds 189 detainees, 12 are at the Bagram facility and one remains in Mazar-e-Sharif.

January 2002

▼ Jan. 11, 2002

The first 20 detainees from Afghanistan arrive on U.S. territory at Camp X-Ray, Guantanamo Naval Base, Cuba. Security personnel from Joint Task Force 160 swiftly and safely move the detainees from a C-141B Starlifter to a bus with blackened windows. Marines from 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, provided security along the route to Camp X-Ray.

▼ Jan. 18, 2002

The defrocked priest John Geoghan is convicted of child molestation. The church's role in the cover-up sparks national outrage.

Jan. 20, 2002 ▼

A CH-53E helicopter crashes about 40 miles south of Bagram, Afghanistan, killing two Marines and injuring five others. The crash appears to be the result of a mechanical failure.

Jan. 29, 2002 ▼

In his State of the Union address, President Bush declares Iraq, Iran and North Korea and their terrorist allies constitute an "axis of evil" that threatens world peace.

▲ Jan. 1, 2002

Marines from Kilo Company, Battalion Landing Team 3/6, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), lead a raid on a suspected al Qaeda outpost in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan, northwest of Kandahar.

▲ Jan. 9, 2002

A KC-130 crashes into a steep mountainside while on approach to an expeditionary airfield near Shamsi, Pakistan. Seven crewmembers from Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352, based out of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., die in the crash.

▲ Jan. 15, 2002

Marines from the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) field test the Corps' latest addition to its arsenal, the Designated Marksman Rifle M-14, in the desert surroundings of Afghanistan.

Jan. 23, 2002 ▲

U.S. reporter Daniel Pearl is kidnapped in Pakistan.

▲ Jan. 24, 2002

Kenneth L. Lay, chairman of bankrupt energy trader Enron Corporation, resigns the company. He is under federal investigation for hiding debt and misrepresenting earnings.

Marines Defend American Way of Life, Wage War on Terrorism

"On my orders, the United States military has begun strikes against al Qaeda terrorist training camps and military installations of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. ... We did not ask for this mission, but we will fulfill it. The name of today's military operation is Enduring Freedom. We defend not only our precious freedoms, but also the freedom of people everywhere to live and raise their children free from fear. ... The battle is now joined on all fronts. We will not waiver, we will not tire, we will not falter; and we will not fail. Peace and freedom will prevail."

— President George W. Bush
in an address to the Nation Oct. 7, 2001

Operation Enduring Freedom

Marines have had a vital role in the ongoing war on terror. Even before the Oct. 7, 2001, start of Operation Enduring Freedom, Marines were in theater preparing for any situation.

The 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operation Capable), based out of Camp Pendleton, Calif., and already on a normal six-month deployment, steamed into the Arabian Sea in late September 2001, ready to answer America's call. They were the first Marines on the ground Oct. 7, establishing a forward operating air base and logistical hub in northern Pakistan. The Marines of the 26th MEU (SOC), deployed from Camp Lejuene, N.C., soon joined them. By the end of the year, the two MEUs had set new standards in Marine Corps Amphibious doctrine by conducting an amphibious assault over 400 miles into the landlocked Afghanistan, establishing and maintaining the first significant conventional ground presence.

Over the months that followed, the Marines joined arms with a new coalition comprised of numerous countries seeking justice for the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. In Afghanistan, coalition partners have contributed nearly 8,000 troops to Operation Enduring Freedom and to the International Security Assistance Force in Kabul—making up over half of the 15,000 non-Afghan forces in Afghanistan. By 2001's end, Afghanistan's interim leader Prime Minister, Hamid Karzai, announced the Taliban's rule was finished. But the work is not done. Marines and coalition partners continue to maintain a presence in Afghanistan, searching out Taliban remnants as well as other terrorist organizations.

Then, the war on terror shifted to a new front in late 2002 as Saddam Hussein's regime delayed and deceived the United Nations weapons inspection teams in Iraq. In an October 2002 address, President Bush expressed growing concern that Hussein was hiding weapons of mass destruction. More and more troops, including Marines, were deployed to the deserts surrounding Iraq in preparation for America's next move in the war on terrorism. **M**

Feb. 8, 2002

Nearly two months of combat operations during Operation Enduring Freedom come to an end for Marines and Sailors of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) as they complete their back load onto the USS Bataan Amphibious Ready Group.

February 2002

Feb. 8, 2002

The Winter Olympics begin in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Feb. 13, 2002

American Taliban soldier, John Walker Lindh, is charged with supporting terrorism.

Mar. 3, 2002

Marine helicopter pilots, crews and support personnel from the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) provide the quick reaction force and muscle required to conduct deliberate air assaults on enemy mortar positions and hide-sites in Khowst and eastern Afghanistan's Shah-e-Kot Valley near Gardez, Afghanistan.

March 2002

Mar. 3, 2002

15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) returns to Camp Pendleton, Calif., after a near seven-month deployment.

Mar. 19, 2002

The 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) is in the Red Sea after a brief port visit to U.S. Naval Support Activity, Souda Bay, Crete. They prepare to replace the 26th MEU (SOC).



▼ **SOUTHEAST IRAQ** – Marines of 2nd Battalion, 6th Marines, move to board a British CH-47D Chinook at Logistical Support Area Viper in southeast Iraq for insertion to their patrol base April 7.

Photo by Sgt. Mauricio Campino

Patriot Portrait: Cpl. Christopher P. Duffy



BAGRAM, Afghanistan –

Cpl. Christopher P. Duffy, a 23-year-old with Combined Joint Task Force 180, stands watch at the main entrance to Camp Teufel-Hunden. The St. Louis, Mo., native also works in maintenance control. His squadron, Marine Attack Squadron 513, from Yuma, Ariz., deployed to the mountains of Afghanistan in October 2002.

Photo by Gunnery Sgt. Shannon Arledge





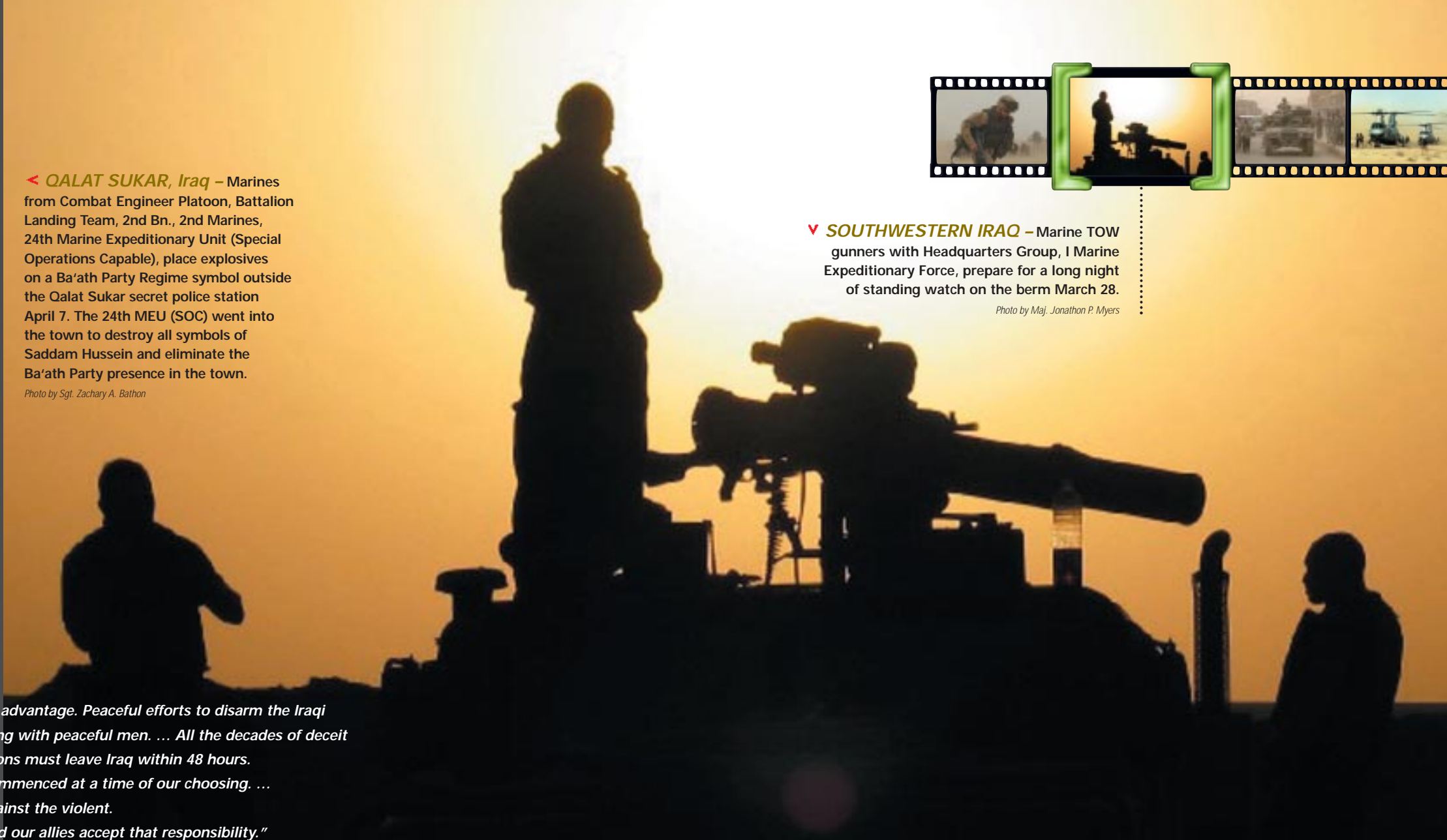
< **QALAT SUKAR, Iraq** – Marines from Combat Engineer Platoon, Battalion Landing Team, 2nd Bn., 2nd Marines, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), place explosives on a Ba'ath Party Regime symbol outside the Qalat Sukar secret police station April 7. The 24th MEU (SOC) went into the town to destroy all symbols of Saddam Hussein and eliminate the Ba'ath Party presence in the town.

Photo by Sgt. Zachary A. Bathon



▼ **SOUTHWESTERN IRAQ** – Marine TOW gunners with Headquarters Group, I Marine Expeditionary Force, prepare for a long night of standing watch on the berm March 28.

Photo by Maj. Jonathon P. Myers



Operation Iraqi Freedom

“The Iraqi regime has used diplomacy as a ploy to gain time and advantage. Peaceful efforts to disarm the Iraqi regime have failed again and again — because we are not dealing with peaceful men. ... All the decades of deceit and cruelty have now reached an end. Saddam Hussein and his sons must leave Iraq within 48 hours.

Their refusal to do so will result in military conflict, commenced at a time of our choosing. ...

Free nations have a duty to defend our people by uniting against the violent.

And tonight, as we have done before, America and our allies accept that responsibility.”

— President George W. Bush
in an address to the Nation March 17, 2003

Forty-eight hours later, Saddam Hussein was still in Iraq and Operation Iraqi Freedom had begun. This war started with an early morning missile attack on selected targets in Baghdad. Even as the air war began, ground troops were in place. Marines experienced some of the heaviest fighting of the war as they punched their way forward into the country, determined to breach Baghdad and other Iraqi forces strongholds.

But, the Marines’ natural aggressiveness has been tem-

pered with the knowledge that the battle is against Hussein and his soldiers who choose to fight, not with the Iraqi people or those who lay down their arms. One of the most memorable moments of the conflict is the video of U.S. Marines and Iraqi citizens toppling a larger-than-life statue of Saddam Hussein in Baghdad.

As the war slowly winds down, Marines move to a new phase—helping to rebuild Iraq and allowing its people to self-determine their rule, free of a dictatorial tyrant. **M**

Patriot Portrait: Sgt. Richard Oh

KUWAIT – Field radio operator Sgt. Richard Oh, a 22-year-old Baltimore native and member of the Combined/Joint Task Force – Consequence Management, keeps his face warm during a field training exercise near the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait Dec. 14, 2002. Oh, regularly assigned with D Company, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, based in Twentynine Palms, Calif., is serving a six-month tour with the task force.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Bill Lisbon



May 17, 2002 ▼
The Black Knights of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 314 are conducting combat operations over Afghanistan. They are attached to Carrier Air Wing Nine aboard USS John C. Stennis operating in the North Arabian Sea. They have been conducting missions since mid-December 2001.

May 2002

May 13, 2002 A
The United States and Russia reach a landmark arms agreement to cut both countries’ nuclear arsenals by up to two-thirds over the next 10 years.

June 14, 2002 ▼
At a national conference, U.S. bishops recommend a zero tolerance policy for priests who abuse children.

June 15, 2002 ▼
The more than 2,200 Marines and Sailors of the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) leave their homes, families and friends to begin a routine six-month deployment to the Western Pacific and Arabian Gulf regions aboard the USS Belleau Wood (LHA-3), USS Denver (LPD-9) and the USS Mount Vernon (LSD-39).

June 2002

June 17, 2002 A
After nearly seven months of medal-winning combat service and playing hopscotch across the northern Arabian Sea and eastern Afghanistan, the Marines and Sailors of the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) return to Camp Pendleton, Calif.



▼ **AD DIWANIYAH, Iraq** – Thousands of locals flooded the streets when Marines from Task Force Tarawa, 2nd Force Reconnaissance, patrolled the city. The Marines were there to provide security for the Iraqi Freedom Force's liberation of the city. The Marines were the first U.S. military forces the Iraqis had seen inside of the city since the beginning of the conflict.

Photo by Cpl. Shawn C. Rhodes



◀ **AN NU'MANIYAH, Iraq** – Cpl. Anthony Murphy from Portland, Ore., and Sgt. David Leonard from San Diego, assist Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines, secure a military compound outside the town of An Nu'maniyah April 2.

Photo by Gunnery Sgt. Erik S. Hansen

Patriot Portrait: Sgt. Fred Kittman

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Marine snipers are the stuff of legend, and—one shot, one kill—the oft-spoken mantra of these professional marksmen is not just a Hollywood phrase. Sgt. Fred Kittman, a reservist activated Feb. 5, 2002, and team leader of sniper team Seminole 4 with 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marines, knows it, too. The battalion recently deployed to the Central Command Area of Operations.

Photo by Gunnery Sgt. Glenn Holloway



▼ **July 12, 2002**

For the first time since the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) left Camp Lejeune, N.C., in late February, the Harriers of the MEU's aviation combat element participate in combat missions in direct support of the global war against terrorism in the Central Command Area of Operations in Afghanistan.

July 2002

▲ **July 21, 2001**

WorldCom, after admitting to misstating profits, files for bankruptcy. This is the largest claim in U.S. history.

August 2002

▼ **Aug. 27, 2002**

The 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) leaves Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., and is on its way to activities in Kosovo and the Central Command Area of Operations.



◀ **AN NU'MANIYAH, Iraq** – Escondido, Calif., native, Petty Officer 3rd Class Christopher Pavicek, a corpsman with 3rd Battalion 5th Marines, provides aid to a wounded Iraqi soldier April 2. The soldier was wounded during a firefight with 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion outside the town of An Nu'maniyah.

Photo by Gunnery Sgt. Erik S. Hansen



▼ **JALIBAH, Iraq** – Two CH-46's Sea Knights and a UH-60 Blackhawk land on a hardball road near the airstrip at Jalibah to take on fuel before continuing their mission up north March 25. This point was carefully selected by the Forward Arming Refueling Point commander to refuel this type of aircraft in a fast-paced environment.

Photo by Sgt. Giles M. Isham



LOGISTICAL SUPPORT AREA VIPER, Iraq – Cpl. Omar W. Sanders, a 21-year-old radio operator with 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, stands watch near the 1st Force Service Support Group's forward command post at Logistical Support Area Viper, March 30. The Newark, N.J., native is part of a security element guarding I Marine Expeditionary Force's commanding general.

Photo by Sgt. Joseph R. Chenelly

Patriot Portrait: Cpl. Omar W. Sanders



Sept. 16, 2002 ▼
Iraq says it will allow international weapons inspectors to return "without conditions."

Oct. 8, 2002 ▼
One Marine is killed and another wounded during an assault by two Kuwaiti nationals on the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) while it was participating in Exercise Eager Mace, an annual bi-lateral exercise conducted with Kuwaiti forces. The attack took place on Faylaka Island, about 12 miles from Kuwait City and about 30 miles from southern Iraq.

Oct. 16, 2002 ▼
North Korea admits to developing nuclear arms in defiance of treaty.

Oct. 23-26, 2002 ▼
Chechen rebels take 763 people hostage in a Moscow theater. Russian authorities release a gas into theater, killing 116 hostages and freeing the remainder.

September 2002

October 2002

Sept. 30, 2002 ▲
The United Nations and Iraq discuss terms for weapons inspections, but talks leave eight presidential compounds on limits, and the United States seeks authorization for a use of force if Iraq fails to comply with inspections.

October 2002 ▲
The Marines of Marine Attack Squadron 513, from Yuma, Ariz., arrive in Bagram, Afghanistan, in early October. More than 150 Marines, and an undisclosed number of Harrier aircraft, are deployed to the region. The squadron is the first land-based Harriers serving in direct support of the war on terrorism.

Oct. 12, 2002 ▲
A terrorist bomb in Bali kills hundreds.

Oct. 2-24, 2002 ▲
Snipers prey upon residents of the Washington suburbs, killing ten and wounding others. The spree ends when police arrest two sniper suspects, John Allen Muhammad and John Lee Malvo.